LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a collaborative messaging system, a mail server cell comprising:

a logical grouping of application server nodes disposed and executing within an application server hosting an application programming interface to expose business logic and business processes for use by other applications;

an Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) compliant mail server executing in a computer and coupled to said logical grouping of application server nodes; and,

at least one data store configured for storing electronic mail messages processed in said IMAP compliant mail server.

2. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, wherein said IMAP compliant mail server comprises a simple mail transfer protocol (SMTP) inbound request handler, an SMTP outbound request handler, and a set of IMAP services coupled to said SMTP inbound and outbound request handlers.

3. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, wherein said IMAP compliant mail server comprises a set of platform independent classes operable in a virtual machine environment.

4. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, wherein said virtual machine environment is the Java virtual machine environment.

5. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 4, wherein said IMAP compliant mail server comports with the J2EE specification.

6. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, further comprising a communicative coupling to authentication services provided through said application server.

7. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, further comprising a communicative coupling to auto-provisioning services provided through the collaborative messaging system.

8. (Original) The mail server cell of claim 1, further comprising a communicative coupling to a portal/portlet interface to said IMAP compliant mail server.

9. (Currently Amended) A collaborative messaging application comprising:

an Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP) compliant mail server configured for operation and executing within an n-tier enterprise environment provided by an application server ~~computer~~ hosting an application programming interface to expose business logic and business processes for use by other applications;

a markup language driven interface to said IMAP compliant mail server disposed within a Web container in said application server;

a data store configured to store messages process by said IMAP compliant mail server; and,

a directory configured to provide configuration and addressing data to said IMAP compliant mail server.

10. (Original) The collaborative messaging application of claim 9, wherein said IMAP compliant mail server comprises a set of platform independent classes programmed for execution in a virtual machine and specifically operable in said n-tier enterprise environment.

11. (Original) The collaborative messaging application of claim 10, wherein said virtual machine is a Java virtual machine and wherein said n-tier enterprise environment is J2EE.

12. (Original) The collaborative messaging application of claim 9, further comprising an administrative console coupled to a messaging administrative plug-in to said console facilitate management of said IMAP compliant mail server, said markup language driven interface, said data store and said directory.

13. (Original) The collaborative messaging application of claim 9, further comprising authentication logic disposed within said application server and communicatively linked to said IMAP compliant mail server for use by said IMAP compliant mail server.

14. (Original) The collaborative messaging application of claim 9, further comprising auto-provisioning logic disposed within the collaborative messaging application and communicatively linked to said IMAP compliant mail server for use by said IMAP compliant mail server.